



**Mansfield Middle School Association**  
**November 16, 2011**  
**Minutes**

*The meeting was called to order at 7.05.*

***Those in attendance:***

Allison Altieri, Kelly Brouse, Jeff Cryan, , Lisa Drzewiecki, Nancy Gilbertson, Vanessa Gonzalez, Bethany, Megan Meikle, , Jeannette Picard, , Karen Sommer, Ruth Washington

President Diane Briody brought the meeting to order and members introduced each other. Members were welcomed.

***Reports***

*President:* Diane shared a thank you from the Class of 2014 for help in funding their last field trip.

*Vice-President:* Allison Altieri reported that the MMSA newsletter was sent out

*Treasurer:* Megan Meikle reviewed treasury balances. The MMSA now has a total balance of \$6185.20. At the time of the meeting no check had been received from Friendly's for the fundraiser held just before the restaurant closed. Nancy Gilbertson will contact the regional/district manager to find out the status of the fundraising check.

*Secretary:* Jeannette Picard reviewed the minutes for our last meeting. The secretary's report was accepted unanimously. Jeannette noted that committee membership lists have been updated and are available on the MMSA website.

*Grants Committee:* The Grants Committee reported on their review of grants requests submitted. \$10,000 in funding was requested. Grants will be made as follows:

- Gr 5 – Horizon Wings.....\$300
- Gr 5 – Science Genie.....\$300
- School Counselors – outreach for incoming s./COPE.....\$300
- Gr 7 – Boston Museum of Sci field trip support.....\$500
- Gr 5-8 - Mileage Club.....\$200
- Gr 5-6 – “Shakespearience” play .....\$800
- Gr 5-8 – Read Live.....\$600
- Gr 5-6 – Storyteller/Writer’s Workshop.....\$1000
- Gr 5-6 – non-fictin texts at variety of reading levels.....\$300

Much discussion followed the review of initial recommendations by committee members. Concern was expressed over the lack of funding within the regular budget for instructional materials and the reliance on grants to purchase regular classroom materials. A question will be added to the application form regarding use of the regular budget funding process for requested items. Jeff Cryan noted that Mansfield now has almost 25% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. Students are not denied participation in field trips due to monetary issues.

Lisa Drzewiecki will email teachers to share the results of the submission process. The MMSA will wait until after the play and profits from concessions are tallied to determine if additional funding can be given. All members of the committee were thanked for their work.

*Administrative:* Jeff Cryan reported on a number of items:

-Mercury issue – Related to the Q-notify regarding an issue in the cafeteria, two ovens and a vacuum cleaner must be replaced. Lunches were provided to students by E.O. Smith high school to ensure the safety of the food provided.

-Safe School Climate Committee – The committee discusses ways of addressing school climate issues and has been set up through the new CT anti-bullying law. Surveys will be coming for parents, staff and students. Each school must have a school climate plan in place and survey results will direct the plan for our school.

-Joyce Crepeau Fund – a description and template for making proposals was shared.

-Newsletter – thank you to Allison for such a professional job on the publication

-Conferences – to be held during the week of 11/21

-Commendation letters – Almost half of students received letters based on earning 10 excellent marks for effort/behavior.

-Budget – Budget preparations are in process. Teachers and administrators are working to maintain programs. The school is looking at a new Math textbook. Classes are presently using *Math in Context*. This series emphasizes understanding/problem solving, but requires much supplementation for practice. Newer programs now available provide a better balance. Efforts are being made to maintain appropriate class sizes. However, this goal is sometimes difficult to meet. For example, each year a substantial number of students are added to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade lists prior to entry to Grade 5. Smaller class guidelines exist for fifth grade, but this is difficult to meet with an influx of fifth graders.

*Faculty Representative:* Kelly Bourse reported on a number of activities:

-Service to the Community - “Pennies for Warmth” has been successful and the Challenge Walk for WAIM is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

-Drama Production- The school production of the musical “Honk” will take place on the weekend of 11/18-20.

-History Day – District History Day will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, with all proposals to be submitted by 12/2.

#### *Other Business*

-Fundraising- Nancy Gilbertson discussed recent fundraising activities:

-Water bottles – Ordering was extended. The MMSA will earn a \$300 profit if the minimum order is met. A motion was approved to purchase the number of bottles necessary to meet the required minimum. These would be set aside for later sale at various school events.

-Papa Gino’s – A fundraising night for MMS has been set aside for January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12-5

-Willington Pizza – Nancy will also check into holding a fundraising night or week sometime in the Spring.

-T-shirts – Logo items will be purchased through Novel-tees.

-hooded sweatshirt - \$18

-zippered sweatshirt - \$24

-t-shirt - \$6.50

These would have the Mansfield roadrunner design. A minimum of 50 pieces must be ordered. Q-notify messages will be sent out with order information.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:40..*

*Respectfully submitted,*

Jeannette Picard

Secretary (pending approval at our next meeting)

*Our next meeting will be held in February*